

Scores rally for equality at downtown Beloit event

By ROBERT CROZIER Staff writer | Posted: Friday, April 29, 2016 4:00 pm

BELOIT — Beloiters rallied against racism at First National Bank Plaza over the lunch hour Thursday as part of a national Stand Against Racism event organized by the YWCA.

The more than 100 attendees included state Rep. Mark Spreitzer, Beloit City Council members, School District of Beloit Superintendent Tom Johnson, the Beloit Memorial High School girls soccer team, coaches and school administrators.

YWCA Rock County Executive Director Angela Moore said her organization stands with Beloit Memorial's girls soccer team, which was recently in the national spotlight after being on the receiving end of racially-tinged taunts as they played a game at Elkhorn.

The soccer team stood before the crowd Thursday as their coach remarked on the recent incident.

“The beautiful thing that resulted from that is that we got our voices heard,” Coach Brian Denu said. “There is no place for racism anymore.”

Beloit City Council member Regina Hendrix recited a recent city proclamation made in support of the YWCA's national Stand Against Racism event.

Moore also remarked on the wealth and income gaps between men and women and between black and white workers.

“These are areas we would like all of us to, as a society, work on,” she said.

YWCA board member Tara Dunn said racism isn't always open and blatant, and that it can be a subtle comment or “microaggression.”

As Dunn said a collection of these subtly-racist phrases, several women stood and showcased to the crowd placards bearing them.

They included “You are so articulate,” “You don't look Mexican,” and “You don't act like a normal



Fight against racism

YWCA Board member Tara Dunn stands at the podium to recite a series of subtly-racist phrases Thursday, while other women stood and displayed placards bearing the phrases, around the First National Bank Plaza in downtown Beloit.

black person.”

After the signs were displayed, Moore called for a moment of silent reflection on what the individuals present could do in their own lives to stand against racism.